

permanently sealed on both ends with a score formed at a predetermined distance from each end of the housing.

5. (Amended) A multi-channel single-tube sealed container and applicator comprising:

a one-piece housing of rigid material with two permanently sealed ends wherein said housing encloses multiple channels capable of containing substance and is sealed on both ends with multiple scores formed at multiple predetermined distances from each end of the housing.

Responses to Claim Rejections under 35 USC §102 and 35 USC §103
based on Aiken

Aiken discloses an elongated tubular member of relatively small diameter fabricated of a transversely flexible material with rupturable sealing elements at both ends in the form of a thin closure disc or membrane. Aiken requires the user to manually squeeze the tube until one or both of the sealing elements ruptures.

Applicant's invention claims a multi-channel single tube permanently sealed container and applicator that does not require a flexible material. In fact, applicant's invention requires the container to be made of a relatively rigid material such that a score can be formed on its outer circumference so that when it is bent, it will break open at the preformed score. If the material is flexible, the container may simply bend and not break open at the score. Applicant's invention cannot be ruptured by squeezing the housing because both ends are permanently sealed, unlike Aiken, which utilizes temporary seals with a thin closure disc or membrane that can and must be ruptured for application.